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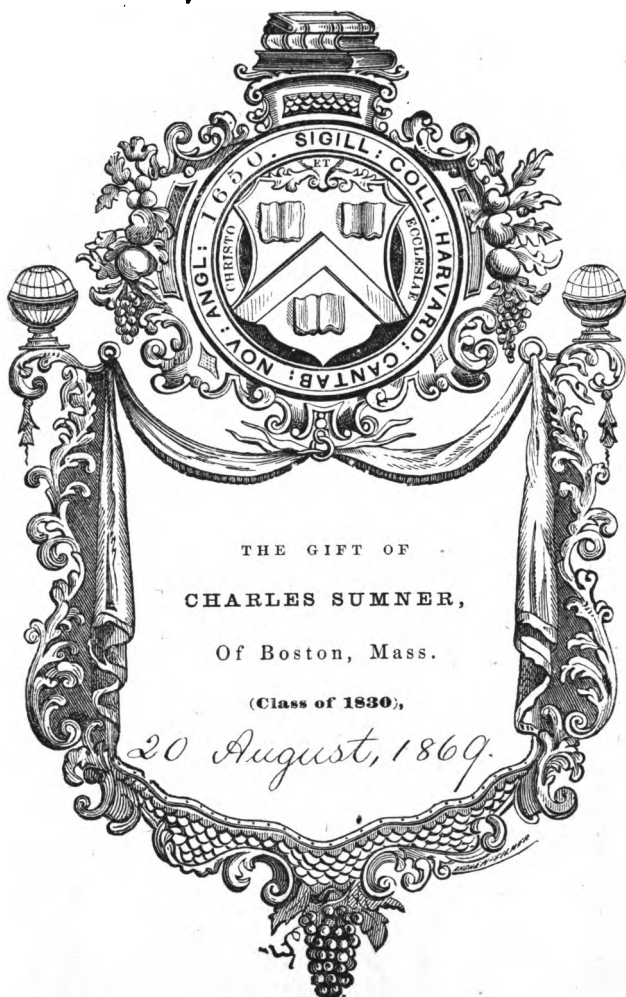
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AN
ORATION

DELIVERED AT THE
DEDICATION OF THE SOLDIERS' MONUMENT

IN
NORTH WEYMOUTH, MASS.,

ON SATURDAY, JULY 4, 1868,

BY
HON. GEORGE B. LORING.

With an Appendix,

CONTAINING THE OTHER EXERCISES, AND RECORD OF THE DECEASED SOLDIERS.

WEYMOUTH:
C. G. EASTERBROOK, — WEYMOUTH WEEKLY GAZETTE PRESS,
1869.

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US 13519.10.5

1869, Aug. 23.
Gift of

Gen. Chas. Sumner.
(K. E. 1830)

DESCRIPTION OF MONUMENT.

THE

Monument

is of Quincy granite,
and rises to the height of

twenty-five feet, resting on a

foundation of granite blocks, eight

feet square and five feet deep. On the four

sides of the die of the pedestal are cut four panels,

in which are set four shield shaped tablets, of the best of

white Italian marble, on which are inscribed the names of the

ninety-nine deceased patriot soldiers of Weymouth. On the four tympani

of the die of the pedestal are the following devices and mottoes:—

On the East side, "They Died for their Country."—"1861 to 1865."

On the South side, two Sabres crossed.

On the West side, "Weymouth to her Heroes."—"Erected 1868."

On the North side, two Cannons crossed.

On the shaft of the Monument are four shields. The one on the East side contains a

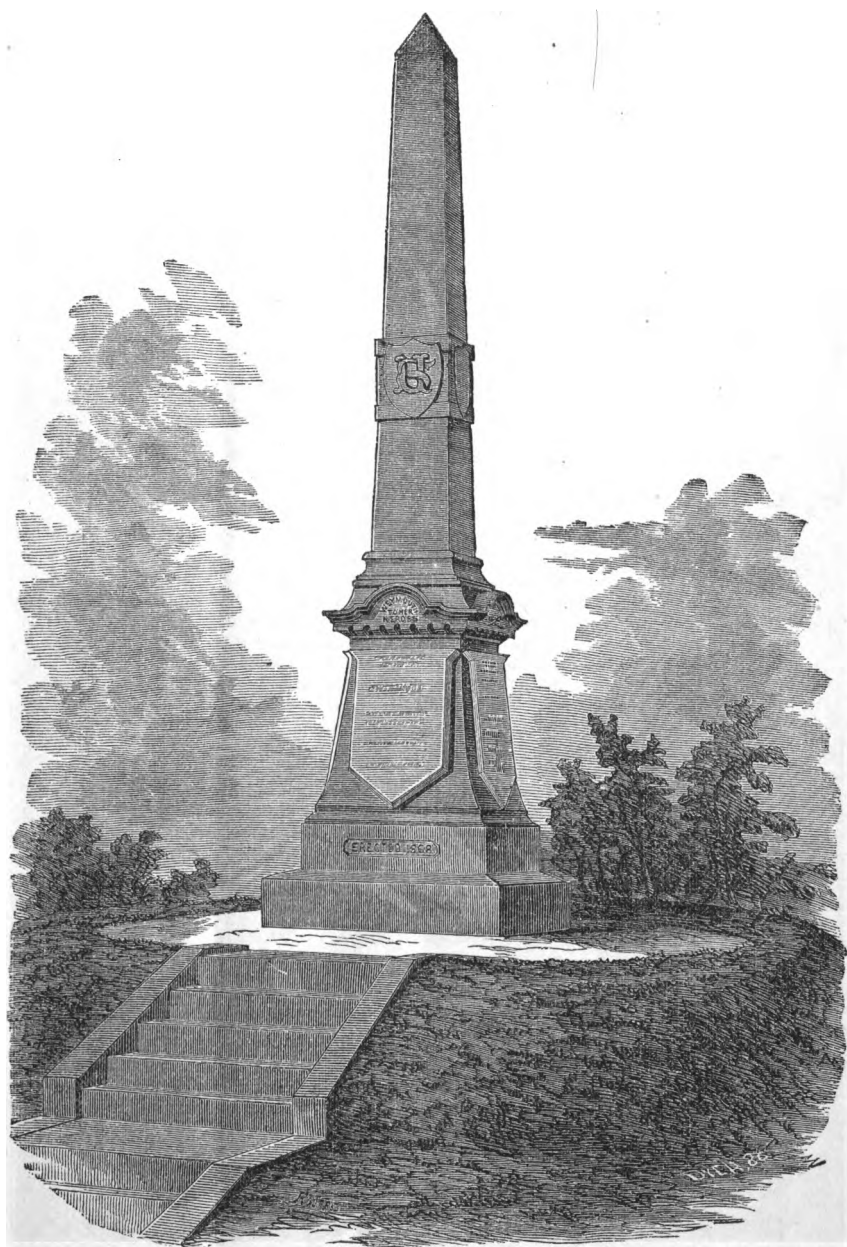
Wreath; on the South side the Stars and Stripes; on the West side the letters

U. S., in monogram; and on the North side thirteen Stars. The

mottoes are raised letters, and the devices also raised.

The shaft is a square tapering

column.



SOLDIERS' MONUMENT, WEYMOUTH. MASS.

ORATION.

FELLOW CITIZENS :

We have assembled here to-day under circumstances which no man of this generation had a right to anticipate. The Fourth of July, the great birth-day of our Republic, was transmitted to us by our fathers, laden with a wealth of associations and memories, which seemed to be an inheritance as ample as Providence in its supreme wisdom would ever vouchsafe to its most chosen people. The heroism of our revolutionary fathers, unmatched in history, gave inspiration to our people through all the changes and trials of three quarters of a century. The august form of Washington presided everywhere, inspired our orators, guided our statesmen, illumined our land. The profound declarations of Jefferson were the gospel of our nationality. Around the sacred scenes of the revolution we loved to linger ;—with Pickering and his little band on that solemn Sunday afternoon at North Bridge ; with the valiant yeomanry of Concord and Lexington. and Parker's dying words ; with Prescott and Warren on the bloody morning of Bunker Hill ; with Washington, toiling and suffering and praying and trusting in God from Dorchester

Heights to Yorktown; with all the victories and defeats which immortalize that great struggle for national existence. In any moment of unpatriotic indifference, we could inflame our hearts with the burning words of Adams, and Henry, and Otis. In an hour of unreason and irritation, we could turn to the wisdom and calmness and magnanimity and humanity out of which was born our Constitution. Around the birth of our Republic stood an assembly of great men—great in their own day and generation, but greater still as time went on and demonstrated the grandeur of the work which they accomplished. There were none so low, none so base, none so arrogant, none so oppressive, none so inhuman, none so unchristian, that they did not, on this day at least, rise into the sublime faith that “all men are created equal.” There were none so down-trodden and oppressed that they could not, on this day at least, find comfort to their souls, and discern through the gloom, a radiant and inspiring future. As we surveyed the past, all the attributes of a free, and educated, and just, and brave, and wise, and powerful people, were presented to us by example and precept and tradition. And as we looked forward into the future, the development of these great national faculties into a republic of human equality and justice, for which Washington drew his sword, and which Jefferson conceived, rose before our delighted vision, with a grandeur hitherto unknown among the nations of the earth.

And now, my friends, we have all this and more. To the traditions of the great war for National Inde-

pendence, we add today the memories of the great war for Human Freedom. The anniversary of the Declaration of Independence is the anniversary of the battle of Gettysburg, when the immortal truths of that Declaration were vindicated by a loyal people in arms. As we celebrate the birth of our nation, we may also celebrate its redemption. And while the heroes and the heroic events of the Revolution crowd upon our minds, the great men and the great deeds of our own time add their inspiring influence and give us new assurance of the immortal vigor of a government founded on "equal and exact justice to all men." By the side of THOMAS JEFFERSON, the Great Apostle of Freedom, now stands ABRAHAM LINCOLN, the Great Martyr of Freedom. By the side of WASHINGTON, the Father of his Country, stands GRANT, the Savior of his Country—the heir of that sword which was unsheathed for the cause of popular freedom and right, and was restored to its scabbard when the great work was accomplished;—the two commanding military minds, whose modesty, and patriotism, and wisdom, have taught mankind that a great Captain may add to his greatness by being obedient to the voice of a free and enlightened people—and that the sword and the sceptre may be disjoined. We remember now with pride the battle-fields of the revolution; but to this pride we add the tenderest emotions of our hearts, as we rehearse the gallant deeds performed by our sons and brothers in defense of the Flag, and with affectionate hands strew flowers upon their new-made graves. We heard the gun which was fired

on Sumpter,—we knew the boys who fell at Baltimore—we sat down with Grant before Vicksburg, and followed him in his weary and bloody march through the wilderness;—from our own firesides went forth the men who swept through the valley with Sheridan; and traversed the victorious highway from Atlanta to the sea, with Sherman; and ascended Lookout Mountain with Hooker; and sailed with Farragut and Winslow. The tears shed over the suffering at Andersonville and Salisbury and the Libby are not yet dry. The widows are not gone—the orphans yet remain. The wounded soldier still walks our streets. The sad procession of a citizen soldiery paying homage to their dead comrades, passes even now before us. And we are reminded that but for all this new valor and suffering, and heroism and victory, the Fourth of July would now be blotted from the list of festal days, the Declaration of Independence would be consigned to oblivion, the Emancipation Proclamation would be forgotten, our Flag would be rent asunder, our Constitution would be broken, our Union would be destroyed, the hopes of freemen would be quenched, and the name of the American Republic would be a by-word among the nations;—when we are reminded of all this, we can understand how our two great national eras join hands to make this day illustrious, and we can appreciate the debt of gratitude which we owe the living heroes of the war for freedom, and the sacred obligations we are under to perpetuate the memory of those who fell in the sacred cause, and we may learn, moreover, what a nation this is, whose

birthday is devoted to this pious duty. We may learn, if we will, the significance of its great wars.

The history of the world, my friends, is but little else than the history of war. Around every great national consummation stand the thickly-gathered armies. The advance of every form of civilization is heralded by martial music. The patient scholar and reformer sends forth his thought for the social and civil elevation of mankind—and in an instant it is carried on the point of the sword, and is hurled forth from the mouth of the blazing cannon. “I came not to bring peace on earth, but a sword.” It may be for conquest alone that armies are brought into the field; it may be personal ambition which inspires “the thundering of the captains and the shouting;” it may be for the perpetuation of wrong—it may be for the defence of the right; but it is in war that man finds his path from the old to the new; it is from war that he gathers renewed capacity for the civilizing pursuits of peace. How we dread its horrors—but how we accept its fruits. In an hour of prosperity and repose, we would accept any reconciliation, all compromise, rather than open those horrid gates, out of which rush that horde of fiends whose work it is, if possible, to transform men into beasts. The sky is serene, and we are at rest; the air is still, and we love the alluring silence, and the lethargy, which closes up our senses; we may even accept the wrong and corruption which attend our prosperity, and become a prey to that seductive indulgence,

“Whose pinion fans the wound he makes.”

But let the first flash stream across the heavens, and how are our senses roused at once! In its lurid light the wrong which we have tolerated is made manifest. We are no longer the victims of self-indulgence. Heroism and courage and honor and justice stand in the forefront, and waive back those feeblenesses whose counsels were leading us astray. And when the dark cloud is overblown, what a crowd of new and nobler duties rushes upon us; what new-born faculties attend us; what appeals are made to all our generous emotions; what a holy service falls upon us to pay the highest tribute to the sacrifices of war, and to secure all the richest blessings of peace!

And so we meet here today, with new associations, new duties, new memories,—a new people—to commemorate the deeds of those citizens of this town who fell in battle, and died that we might have an inheritance of freedom. Eight years ago they were pursuing their peaceful avocations here, believing in the perpetuity of the Union, and in that popular progress which should attend the growth of free institutions. Their obligations and yours were the same. They were American citizens, anxious for the honor of their country, and knowing that they could best defend it by a quick response to every call made upon the town in which they lived. And when the war came on, the people's war, they obeyed that impulse which fired so many loyal hearts, and which in the end gave us the victory. They joined that "PEOPLE OF THE FREE" whose fortunes and progress are the most noble theme

which man can contemplate ;"—“ those who fell victims to their principles in the civil convulsions of the short-lived republics of Greece, or who sunk beneath the power of her invading foes ; those who shed their blood for liberty amidst the ruins of the Roman republic ; the victims of Austrian tyranny in Switzerland, and of Spanish tyranny in Holland ; the solitary champions or the united bands of high-minded and patriotic men who have, in any region or age, struggled and suffered in the great cause of freedom,” and whose “ annals are the history of freedom.” They were of the people, and they went forth to fight the people’s war.

For as I have said on another occasion, “ the war through which we have just passed was indeed the people’s war—the heroes and martyrs are indeed of the people. As each great event transpired mark how the people took it to their own bosoms—whether victory or defeat. Not only was the spirit of the war maintained by the people, not only was the great issue of the war dictated by the people, in their press, at their homes, in all public assemblies, but the characteristic features of the war were stamped by them. At the sound of the signal gun, a citizen soldiery rushed to arms, carrying with them all their accomplishments. It was a lawyer of Massachusetts, leading the mechanics and artizans of Massachusetts, who fought his way through the streets of Baltimore, working steamboats and railroads with his own men, and saving the national capital, before an astonished enemy could muster his forces. Out of every dwelling, and shop, and college, and

school went our volunteers. Into the pocket of every man went our national currency—that the people might bear the burthen of their own war debt. With every conceivable amelioration they followed our armies. All christian associations devoted themselves, by missions and tracts, to cherish the religious character of our men, and to cheer and console the sick, the wounded and the dying. Every village surgeon felt that he owed his services to the suffering multitude on our battle-fields. Into every camp were borne the most liberal supplies of domestic comforts, food and raiment, prepared by the devoted mothers, sisters and wives of the land, whose hearts followed, in prosperity and adversity, our armies, and who found their consolation in the affectionate service. The heroic deeds of our battalions will be written for the admiration of all time. The achievements at Antietam, and Gettysburg, and South Mountain, and Vicksburg, and Atlanta, and in the Wilderness, will not be forgotten. But there is a story of popular devotion and domestic tenderness, belonging to the war, which may never be recorded in all its delightful and significant details. Who can tell the words of encouragement which the gray-haired fathers poured out upon their sons in the army, to strike for the right, until the right should prevail? Who can ever record that determination which was sent forth from the firesides of the loyal people, to inspire our rulers and guide our generals,—that the war might not cease until slavery was stricken down, and all men were made free? Who will ever be able

to write the history of that female devotion and courage, which sent an army of Florence Nightingales into all the military hospitals of the war? And so the people toiled, and fought, and voted, and thought, and prayed, and wrote and spoke for Freedom and the Union—and stayed not their hands until the victory for Freedom and Human Equality and the Union was won.

A citizen soldiery, pouring forth from the workshops and schools and farms, representing all our various industries, taught all in our institutions of learning, graduates of every grade, from the university to the common school, cherished, protected, and encouraged as they were, how could they fail in war,—how could they disappoint us in peace? That they fought well, we all knew. But that a half-million of armed men, versed in war, habituated to the camps, removed for months from all social and civil obligations, would return to the duties of private life, and to the service of citizenship, we did not know—for history and war had taught us no such lesson. The sublime spectacle of a great army, performing its part well and successfully on the field, and so learning and understanding the significance of the contest as to return to an equally faithful performance of their duty at the ballot-box, had not been witnessed. We admire that bravery which led our sons to the “imminent, deadly breach,” which carried them up to the very cannon’s mouth, faced the fire of Wagner, and silenced the batteries of Vicksburg and Port Hudson. But we admire still more that

intelligent understanding of the issues of the hour, that human instinct, which have led those same men to rally at the polls in defense of universal suffrage and the equality of all men under the law. That the wounded soldier, guided back within our lines by the faithful negro slave, should believe in humanity, whether under a black skin or a white one, is not surprising. But that an army of men should fight the battles of freedom, to military success, and then return to an unshaken support of the same high cause at the polls, in the midst of all political sophistries and combinations, ever true, does fill us with wonder and admiration. To fight for freedom one day, and vote for it the next, constitutes the highest conception of a true defender of his country. To do service on the battle-field today, and to perform the part of an educated American citizen tomorrow, is the highest ideal of a citizen soldier. And this our armies did. This the soldiers of Massachusetts did. For I find them in every conflict, from the first to the last hour of the war—with Butler at Baltimore, with Grant at Vicksburg, with Banks at Port Hudson, with Sherman at Atlanta, with Meade at Gettysburg. I find them everywhere on land and on the sea, wherever the flag was unfurled, foremost in the strife, the first to enter Baltimore, the first to enter New Orleans, the first to enter Richmond, and the last to leave. And I find on examining the reports from every town in our Commonwealth, that they have now returned to their private avocations, and that, in the significant words of one town officer reporting on their

conduct, "instead of being contaminated by the scenes of the camp and the field, they are better fitted and qualified to perform the duties of good citizens and members of society, than they would have been had they remained at home during the war."

For the response made by the cities and towns of this Commonwealth to the call of the General Government for troops at the outbreak and during the continuance of the war, they are entitled to our deepest gratitude, and to most honorable mention in every history of that conflict. Inspired by the great appeals of that illustrious Governor who then guided the destinies of Massachusetts, our citizens came up boldly and earnestly to the work. The zeal of John A. Andrew was in that day as a flame of fire, warming our people to their very heart's blood. He had one inspiration for all—the freedom and equality of all men under the law; and no man faltered within the sound of his voice.

The town of Weymouth, where we are now assembled, won a large share of the honor of that great period; and I beg leave to present to you, as a just tribute to the living and the dead, the record which she then secured.

The first gun of the war had been fired. In less than one week, on Thursday, April 18th, 1861, the citizens of North Weymouth were called together in public meeting, "to prepare," as is said, "for the war now forced upon them by the traitorous rebels of the South." The meeting was organized by the choice of

B. F. Pratt, President; Samuel French 2d, James Humphrey, E. S. Beals, Elisha Pratt, and Alexis Torrey, Vice Presidents; and John W. Bartlett and Josiah H. Pratt, Secretaries. The following resolution was adopted:—

“*Resolved*, That we will aid and assist the town with men and money to organize a military company or companies, and will also do our part towards raising a fund of ten thousand dollars, to be appropriated by the town to furnish the companies with uniforms and pay for their services.”

Of this sum ten hundred and twenty dollars were subscribed on the spot.

At a subsequent meeting held April 20th, presided over by Hon. B. F. White, a committee reported that the town pay the volunteers \$15.00 a month for married persons, and \$10.00 a month for single persons; also to appropriate \$5000 for uniforms for the companies, and other expenses.

The town of Weymouth furnished 751 men for the war; of whom 152 re-enlisted, making 903 in all, to complete the quota. Twenty-two of these men were in the naval service,—the balance in the army.

Of this number, one was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General; one to the rank of Colonel; two to the rank of Major; seven to the rank of Captain; twelve to the rank of First Lieutenant; and six to the rank of Second Lieutenant.

In April, 1861, Weymouth furnished one full company for three years—Co. H, 12th Infantry, commanded

by Capt. James L. Bates, promoted to the rank of Colonel, after the death of Col. Webster, in August, 1862. This company was mustered in June, 1861, and mustered out June, 1864.

In July, 1862, Weymouth furnished another full company for three years—Co. H, 35th Mass. Infantry, —commanded by Capt. B. F. Pratt, who was in July, 1863, while at Vicksburg, and just after the surrender, ordered by the Secretary of War to report to Gen. Wild at Newberne, N. C., to recruit colored troops ; and who was promoted to the rank of Lieut. Colonel, and to the command of the 36th U. S. Colored Infantry, and in March, 1865, to the rank of Colonel and Brigadier General by brevet, for gallant and meritorious services. This Co. H, 35th Mass. Infantry, was mustered in August, 1862, left for the front August 21st, and was in the battles of South Mountain and Antietam, within four weeks after leaving the State. It remained until the close of the war, and was mustered out in June, 1865.

In September, 1862, Weymouth furnished another full company for nine months ; commanded by Capt. H. S. Cöburn. This company was sent to New Orleans, and remained in service eleven months.

In August, 1864, Weymouth furnished another full company, for one year—commanded by Capt. A. J. Garey—which remained in service until the close of the war, being mustered out in June, 1865.

In addition to these four full companies, Weymouth was represented in thirty-eight different regiments. At

the first call for troops in April, 1861, men from Weymouth having joined the 4th Mass. Militia regiment, occupied Fortress Monroe, as three months men. They left town April 15th, 1861.

The soldiers from Weymouth were to be found in more than forty different regiments,—were undoubtedly in every rebel State, served in almost every corps of the army, and were present at nearly every important siege and battle from Big Bethel and Bull Run, to the surrender of Lee at Appomatox Court House. They were the first to enter Richmond on the morning of April 3d, 1865, when Gen. Weitzel's 25th Corps of colored troops occupied that hitherto stronghold of treason. The 36th U. S. Colored Infantry, commanded by Col. B. F. Pratt of this town, was the first regiment to enter the city, Capt. F. A. Bicknell commanding Co. B, and Lieut. E. H. Davis, commanding Co. F, both also from this town, being in the same regiment. I doubt if any other town can point to so remarkable a record.

Co. H, of the 35th Regiment, was in the siege of Vicksburg under Gen. Grant; and when that place surrendered, July 4th, 1863, it was transferred to Tennessee, and thence to the army of the Potomac. This same company was in the siege of Petersburg, with Grant, and in the campaign of 1864, from the first advance of Grant through the Wilderness, to the surrender of Lee, and the downfall of Richmond. Co. H, of the 12th Regiment, also from Weymouth, was at the battle of Gettysburg, July 4, 1863, defeating the rebel army, at the same time that their townsmen in the 35th

Regiment were battering down the walls of Vicksburg. It would be impossible to enumerate all the instances of self-sacrificing courage and determination to be found in this band of noble men ; but I know you will allow me to refer to the singular devotion of your townsman, Naaman Torréy, whose name is inscribed on this monument, as one of your martyrs in the cause, and who sent five sons into the army, as the tribute which one family could pay to a struggling country.

Neither may I forget the liberality of this town, in all matters connected with the war, nor the faithful men who presided over its municipal councils. Whatever may be the history of its trials and efforts hereafter, it will not be forgotten that from April, 1861, to March, 1867, you appropriated more than a hundred thousand dollars, to send men to the army, and to support their families and the widows and orphans of the slain. And I record with pleasure the names of James Humphrey, Z. L. Bicknell, and Noah Vining, as the faithful and prudent fathers of the town during its great historic period.

But it is not to do honor to the men who went forth, alone, nor to those who returned, that we are assembled today. The monument before us, erected with a pious care for the memory of those who fell in the holy cause, reminds us of the sacrifices and sufferings, by which the American people preserved their government, and purchased universal freedom. Every name on that shaft tells a story of heroism and valor, and recounts the cost at which national honor and purification and redemption

are purchased. By the dead whom you here commemorate, and by such as these, was our country saved. We cannot forget if we would, that as they ascended to heaven, to be followed by the prayers of every christian, and to receive the reward which we hope and believe is in store for all the faithful—they left behind the mourning and sorrow-stricken, to pass on alone. They have left in our hands the broken hearts of old men sorrowing for those sons upon whom they hoped to lean in the evening of life—of mothers who carry their silent distress calmly to the grave—of the widow and the orphan who listen still for the returning foot-fall—of the community which they served and adorned. And so we accept our duty towards the living, and do honor to the memory of the dead.

Of the many men who went forth from this town, two commissioned officers were killed, and ninety-seven enlisted soldiers, as recorded on these tablets. They fell on nearly all the battle-fields of the war. They perished by slow torture at Andersonville and Salisbury. The bones of many still repose in the solitudes where they breathed out their lives. Their spirits hover over the spots now sacred to freedom on this continent, appealing to you to be true to that trust which has solemnly fallen on this generation of Americans. A divided and distracted country has been cemented by their blood; a dishonored flag has been flung out once more in triumph; a broken constitution has been restored and purified. The people for whom they died are your people; the soil on which they fell is now

yours, purchased by the bitterest sacrifices. By their death these sons of yours have sanctified that region once beclouded by slavery and treason—binding you to that national domain, now more than ever before your own possession—calling upon you to devote yourselves to that cause for which they fell, until the Flag of Freedom in all its glorious significance shall float over their graves, and the great conflict between human rights and oppression shall be ended forever. All along the land—beneath the shade of Fair Oaks, in the solitude of White Oak Swamp, on the fields of Bull Run, and Fredericksburg, and Chattanooga, and Blaine's Cross Roads, by that awful pathway through the Wilderness, on the bloody ground of Petersburg and Coal Harbor, and on that spot of all men accursed, where the great and damning crime of Andersonville was committed, the ashes of your sons repose; and their souls call upon you to make these names as sacred in the annals of advancing civilization, as are those of Concord and Bunker Hill, and Yorktown and Valley Forge, whose heroes have waited these long and weary years for the confirmation of the truth for which they fought, that "all men are created equal."

My friends, the erection of this monument to the memory of your fallen heroes, has a deeper significance than the mere perpetuation of their names. You are indeed observing the custom of all ages, and all people, in giving an imperishable record to the deeds of your chosen ones. When the divine power which God has implanted within us leaves its footprints along the

pathway of life, we love to mark the spots which it irradiates, for the inspiration of coming generations. The fair proportions of his heroes, man has reproduced in speaking marble; the great names have been written on brass; and the children of God have in all time gathered new life for great occasions, by cherishing the memory of the great and good, and by lingering around their greatness. Before us stand the statues of the statesmen and warriors who gave us our country. The great teacher and the inspiring orator, who led our state up to its commanding power, are still with us in solemn bronze. The "holy ground" where the Puritan first set foot upon our soil, with his mighty protest, has been marked and made sacred by the succeeding generations of his sons. We could not rest until the earth which drank up Warren's sacred blood, had received an enduring memorial of the cause in which he fell. But now every village has become a Bunker Hill, every battle-ground a Marathon, every graveyard a Ceramicus, every fallen soldier a hero. We have learned the greatness that is in all men. We have learned that the self-sacrifice of the humble and lowly is as immortal as are the achievements of the great and powerful. When from every walk in life, a band of unknown heroes stepped forth, to toil, and die if need be, for popular freedom, then it was that the virtue of all humanity was made manifest, and man learned to reverence the divinity of his fellow man. Not then to these leaders alone, but to the multitude of martyrs do we erect our monuments. We have decreed that no heroic name

shall die. And in state and college, in town and in city, everywhere and by all means, by solemn pageant, by eulogy and song and monument, we do reverence to the heroes of the people.

In this sacred service we cannot forget the cause in which they fell, nor the duties which they imposed upon us by their labors and their death. When these men, whose memories you would perpetuate, went forth from this town, the country which they loved was in agony. Every hope of the fathers was blasted. The peaceful work of elevating mankind by the benignity of free institutions had ceased; and the raging storm of battle was sweeping over the land. Our pride was humbled in the dust. The splendid temple erected for us and our children was a broken ruin. The proud and the arrogant and the vainglorious laughed at our calamity, and all tyrants rejoiced that our fear had come. The nations struggling to be free turned from us in despair. And when in our distress we cried for help, our taunting brethren pointed to the slave-code on our statute-books, and asked, why should such a people endure? When these men went forth to fight, not only was the cause of the Union and national honor submitted to their hands, but the cause of humanity and freedom. They fought against treason and slavery alike. And when their work was accomplished, they delivered over to us a Republic in which Freedom is the law of the land, a nationality with human equality for its cornerstone.

If it was ever the duty of mankind to cherish the

names of its great men, it is our duty to embalm the memory of those who, in large measure and in small, did what they could for the accomplishment of this work. Accept then the duty which they have imposed upon us. They fought for human freedom—let us secure this blessing everywhere. They fought for the most humane and elevated form of civilization—let us make this the foundation of our civil fabric. They fought for the right of all men to enjoy the privileges secured by free government, the ballot, the church, the school-house—let us make this right the basis of our work of reconstruction. They fought to remove from among us a relic of barbarism—we cannot restore that relic and live. They fought to wipe out all compromises against humanity—let us not hope to restore those compromises with honor or safety. Amidst all the complications which surround us, amidst all the trying and difficult questions which press upon us, struggling as we are for financial success and honor, toiling as we are for a restored republic, we cannot lose sight of that eternal law of freedom for all men, which our soldiers enacted on the battle-field. There can be no reconstruction, no peace, no restoration, no honor, without this. So long as we evade or avoid it, the strife cannot cease. When Abraham Lincoln issued his Proclamation of Emancipation, at once the life and the fruit of the war, new duties and new obligations crowded upon us; the current of our public affairs was turned; the genius of our government was changed; the freeman learned that his freedom belonged to all the sons of men; the slave

learned that the day of legalized bondage was over, and that his course might now be upward into the highest regions of christian civilization. When he struck, moreover, for the republic, he learned how to strike for his own freedom. For the peace of the land, then, let him have his rights. For the prosperity of our people, let him join the great industrial producing classes. As we hope for the blessing of heaven on our nation, let him have justice forever. I appeal to the people who fought the war, and whose sons have risen into the heights assigned to heroes and great men, by their valor on the field, and by the glory and greatness of the cause in which they fell, to stand by those who would guarantee to all men their civil rights, and who would entrust the work of government into loyal hands alone. I appeal to the men of thought in our day, to remember the grandeur of the hour and the glory of the opportunity to which they were born. Never has there been an era like our own. We look back to the days of great reform, to the brilliant periods of history, and sigh for the renown and grace which made them illustrious; to the oratory and scholarship which illumined the path of England on to her glory; to the earnest thought of her reformers; the power of Hampden and Pym, the genius of Marlboro, the radiance of Milton and Newton, the solemn presence of Cromwell, and we bow down before the great men, and pray for a return of their great opportunity. We know that the Puritan was great, and that the men of our revolutionary and constitutional periods were equal to the great

fortune which called forth all their powers. But we cannot forget that the events of our own day—the rising of the rebellion, the audacity of the first gun, the great convulsion of a powerful people, the birth of four millions of citizens out of bondage, the bolt which struck the temple, the skill which would rebuild its shattered walls, furnish the faithful and thoughtful patriot and statesman, a field for labor unknown before. The great events of our time have placed the names of Lincoln, and Andrew, and Grant, by the side of Jefferson, and Adams, and Washington, in the temple of our national immortality; because they inspired all their vast powers with devotion and capacity equal to the hour. We have had no greater historic days than these—no greater historic names—no era in all past time, when the best faculties of man could so well serve the cause of humanity, and immortalize his name. To frame the Constitution of our Republic was a great and wise endeavor—to purify it is a greater and wiser. To create the Union of the States was a noble effort—to bind it together in the interest of humanity is nobler. To fling our national Flag to the breeze was a sublime spectacle—to make it the emblem of Freedom is sublimer. The people know and feel this when they hasten to perpetuate the memories of the war; they also must know and feel it, who would serve their country as our fathers did—with wisdom, and integrity, and a just understanding of the work before them.

And, now, I should fail in the discharge of my duty here did I not remind you that, as in the past, so in the

present, this country leans upon the great powers which have been developed by war, and which form a part of that human experience, to the honor of which this monument is erected. Why it is that so hard a field should furnish such a noble growth, we cannot tell. But as our fathers turned to the great General of their day for guidance in civil life, and the people warmed themselves into confidence at his hearthstone—so do we now look to the great General of our day for those wise and sagacious qualities which can lead us through our troubles. We know that General Grant was victorious in war—that it was his sword which prepared the way for the establishment of the highest principles of free government—that it was his strong right arm which really unlocked the gates of bondage and let the oppressed go free. The people have learned to rely on his solid judgment and his capacious good sense. They believe in him, because he believed in emancipation as one object of the war—because he recognized the right of every man, white or black, to fight for his freedom and his government—because he has not been debauched by power, or by the allurements of office—because he has joined hands with the friends of freedom in Congress and Cabinet—and has listened to the voice of the loyal American people. Point me if you can, to a word or deed of his, which has not inspired this nation to be true to its great destiny. Did the cause of the bondman tremble in the balance—Grant had stormed the walls of Vicksburg, and the bondman's hope revived. Did the hearts of

men fail them for fear, and the Flag of our country droop in sadness—Grant pursued his solemn way through the Wilderness, and the nation was born again. Did treason entrench itself at the Capitol—the honest purpose of Grant defeated its designs, and gave strength to loyalty once more. And as I stand here to defend the cause of freedom, I take courage that the sword of Grant is with the people, and that the largest and most humane faith of the time is his. It has been said that “the great necessity in arduous times is a man who inspires other men;” and I feel that the peculiar genius and character and firm and abiding faith of Grant, have done as much to support the doctrines of freedom, as have the most eloquent appeals of our wisest statesmen.

And so on this national anniversary, I connect the men and memories of the revolution with the men and memories of the war for freedom—uniting the fame of Grant with that of Washington—and praying that this monument may stand as a silent and eloquent appeal for the cause in which these great leaders unsheathed their sword, and for which their comrades in arms laid down their lives.

APPENDIX.

In the warrant for a legal town meeting, held in December, 1865, soon after the close of the war, Article Seven reads as follows:—
“At the request of Col. B. F. Pratt and others, to see if the town will take any action in regard to erecting a monument to the memory of those soldiers from this town who died in the service of their country, during the late war.” And at the town meeting, Dec. 21, 1865, a committee of five was chosen, consisting of Col. Jas. L. Bates, Col. B. F. Pratt, Z. L. Bicknell, Nath'l Blanchard, Josiah Reed, to consider the matter, and report at the annual meeting in March, 1866.

At the annual meeting in March, 1866, the committee submitted the following report:—

“The committee appointed by the town, to take into consideration the subject of a monument for those who have died in their country's service, have the honor to submit the following report:

It is the solemn duty of a patriotic people to honor the dead who have fallen in its defence. A nation situated as is the United States, with no powerful nations upon its borders, and separated from them by thousands of miles of ocean, does not require large standing armies for its safety; but there are sometimes crises arising, when powerful armies are needed, and when they must be had. They must either spring from an ardent patriotism, or be bought for money. The history of our country shows, that patriotism is the true source of national honor, and the foundation of its defence. Hence it becomes our duty to foster a love of country, and to incite our youth to patriotic emotions by honoring the brave, who have died to preserve our liberties and magnify our glory..

In honoring the dead heroes of the recent war, we show our gratitude for their great sacrifices, and our just appreciation of their valor, and inspire in our youth a glorious emulation to imitate their virtues, and to be as ready to strike for their country, when her welfare is imperilled. Seeing daily honored names that are bequeathed to posterity on enduring monuments,—knowing that their history is in a Nation's eyes,—they are taught to feel that it is more glorious to die for one's country, than to go down to peaceful graves and be forgotten.

Your Committee, after due consideration of the subject, on account of the peculiar location of the several villages of the town, and the want of a proper centre, recommend an appropriation of five thousand dollars, to build four monuments, one for each village.

There was a difference of opinion as to the division of this appropriation, and the Committee decided to submit it in this form, leaving it for the town to decide how it should be distributed, provided the appropriation should be made.

A question arose in the Committee, as to the names to be inscribed upon the monuments, whether each village should place the names of its own dead upon its monument, or whether names of all who have died in the service from this town, should be placed upon each.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. L. BATES,	Z. L. BICKNELL,	NATH'L BLANCHARD,
B. F. PRATT,	JOSIAH REED,	Committee.

Weymouth, March, 1866.

This report was accepted, and a Committee, consisting of Col. Bates, Col. Pratt, Capt. Hastings, Capt. Garey, Capt. Lyons, Capt. Pratt, Capt. Thomas, with the Selectmen, were chosen to make a full record of all the soldiers from this town who died during the late war, and also to report a detailed plan of building monuments, with definite appropriations.

At the annual town meeting in March, 1867, this Committee reported the names of deceased soldiers, and also submitted the following recommendation, as a report, which was accepted and adopted :—

“That \$12,000 be raised by the town, to be divided into four parts, and distributed among four sections of the town according to the valuation of the year 1866, said sections being designated as follows :—The 1st Section to include the 1st and 2d School Districts ; the 2d Section the 3d and 10th ; 3d Section, the 4th and 9th ; 4th Section, the 5th, 6th, and 7th School Districts.

The appropriation was to be expended in the erection of monuments, or memorial halls, according to the wishes of the citizens of the several sections, who may carry on the work to completion, with the approval of the Selectmen.

In accordance with a vote of the town, at the annual town meeting in March, 1867, the legal voters of the first section, comprising the 1st and 2d School Districts, were called together by the Selectmen on the 6th of May, 1867, in the vestry of Rev. Mr. Rockwood's Church, to take such action as they deemed advisable in regard to the erection of a monument. Gen'l B. F. Pratt was chosen Chairman of the meeting, Charles G. Jones Secretary, and a Committee (consisting of Gen'l Pratt, W. O. Nash, Elisha Pratt, Henry Newton, Chas. Humphrey,) was chosen to take the matter into consideration in relation to the style, cost, and erection of a monument, and report at some future meeting. This meeting adjourned to meet at the same place four weeks from

that day. At the adjourned meeting on the 3d of June, 1867, the Committee's report, which was long, contained the following :

* * * * *

Your Committee, after carefully considering the whole matter, would recommend that a granite monument be erected in honor of our fallen soldiers, and that the name, age, cause of death, (whether killed, died of wounds, or disease,) date of death, Company and Regiment, of all the soldiers from the town who died during the war, be inscribed on the tablets; also that some suitable mottoes, or inscriptions, exclusive of the names, be placed upon the monument.

Your Committee, after considering the matter of location, have concluded that the most suitable and appropriate place to erect such a monument would be on the highest part of the hill, in the Old Cemetery of North Weymouth, near the road, and on the east side.

* * * * *

All of which is respectfully submitted in behalf of the Committee.

B. F. PRATT, *Chairman*.

North Weymouth, June 3d, 1867.

This report was accepted, and unanimously adopted. Four more were added to the Committee, for the purpose of conferring with the people of East Weymouth, and Weymouth Landing, to induce them to unite with North Weymouth in the erection of one monument, and the meeting was adjourned for two months.

At the adjourned meeting on the evening of August 5th, 1867, the report of the Committee was submitted, which was, in substance, as follows :—That they had faithfully attended to the duty which they were instructed to perform, and considered it entirely useless to make any further efforts to induce the people of those sections to unite with us in the erection of one monument, as proposed in the report of last meeting. The report was accepted, and the Committee discharged.

On motion, it was then voted that a Committee of five be chosen, clothed with full power to carry out the plan which was adopted for the erection of a granite monument, to be paid for by the share of the town appropriation belonging to North Weymouth. Gen'l Benj. F. Pratt, W. O. Nash, Elisha Pratt, Henry Newton, and James Humphrey, Esq., were chosen, to contract for and make all necessary arrangements for the erection of the proposed monument.

In accordance with this vote, this Committee proceeded at once to examine plans and drawings of monuments, by the best architects in Boston, and the plan of this monument, drawn by Charles Edward Parker, Esq., of Boston, was unanimously selected by the Committee.

After submitting the drawings and specifications for examination by different contractors for granite, and receiving their several proposals, a contract was, by the unanimous vote of the Committee, made with E. C. Sargent, Esq., of Quincy, on the 31st day of December, 1867, which was approved by the Selectmen of the town at their next regular meeting.

Under the judicious direction of the Committee, the work of preparing the names for the tablets was prosecuted during the winter, and in the spring the work of grading the hill, sodding the banks, &c., was so far advanced, that it was concluded to make arrangements for dedicating the monument on the Fourth of July, the anniversary of the surrender of Vicksburg, and the victory at Gettysburg; and Hon. Geo. B. Loring, of Salem, was engaged to deliver the Oration.

On Monday, June 29th, the town voted to appropriate the sum of four hundred dollars to defray the expenses of the dedication of the monument on the Fourth of July.

The occasion had been previously announced in the daily papers, and at an early hour the residents of the town, together with large delegations from abroad, brought by the morning trains, and private conveyance, poured into the Square in front of Rev. Mr. Emery's Church, where a procession was formed under the direction of Col. J. L. Bates, Chief Marshal, in the following order :

Detachment of Police.
Escort,—Old Colony Encampment Knights Templar, in full uniform.
Weymouth Band.
Post 40, G. A. R.
Union Guard Associates.
Other Veteran Organizations and Veterans of the late War.
Widows and Children of Deceased Soldiers, in Carriages.
Monument Committee.
Orator of the Day.
Architect and Contractor.
Committee of Arrangements.
Selectmen of the Town.
Invited Guests.
Six Veterans of the War of 1812.
Orphans' Hope and Delta Lodges F. and A. M.
Crescent Lodge I. O. of O. F.
Union Lodge of Good Templars.
Mechanics' Temple of Honor, with a delegation from Naïad Temple of Boston, 110 in number,
accompanied by the Quincy Brass Band.
Speedwell, Friendship, and Phoenix Divisions, S. of T.
Fire Department.
Scholars of High and other Schools.
East Weymouth Zouaves.
Citizens generally, following in Carriages,

Making a very imposing procession, half a mile in length.

At half past ten A. M. a signal gun was fired, and the procession moved under the direction of the Chief Marshal, assisted by Aids Capt. C. W. Hastings, Capt. W. Sampson, Capt. F. B. Pratt, Capt. A.

J. Garey, Capt. C. C. Humphrey, Lieut. J. H. Whalan, and Mr. E. Vining. Major E. C. Pierce was in command of the Veterans, with Major F. A. Bicknell as Adjutant.

The route of the Procession was on North street, to Bridge street, thence to the Monument.

The location of the Monument is a sightly one, on an eminence overlooking the main road, in the North Weymouth Cemetery, which is the oldest but one in this State—that of Plymouth. This eminence is formed in successive plateaus, the banks covered with turf, and the walks smoothly graded with gravel. Its utmost elevation where the monument rests, thirty feet square, affords a beautiful prospect of the surrounding country and the ocean, and the shaft is visible at a great distance.

The monument had previously been decorated with evergreen wreaths and crosses under the direction of Mr. W. F. Hunt, and in this tasteful dress the firm granite assumed an airy and still more attractive form. From the base to the cap these symbols of love and gratitude were garlanded, presenting a pleasing contrast with the bouquets of rare flowers which were placed in stone vases at the corners of the walk around the monument. A still more charming addition to these floral and woodland decorations was a group of young girls dressed in white and formed in a circle around the base of the structure. They represented the States of the Union, and as the procession came into view saluted the column by waving American flags. The pedestal was elegantly draped with flags, covering the tablets on which the names of the dead are inscribed.

Owing to the intense heat of the sun's rays, and the dusty roads, the route was changed and somewhat shortened by the Marshal, but all bore the weather's inflictions with the utmost fortitude. After marching over the route the column entered the Cemetery, passing around the monument while a national salute was being fired, and the exercises were commenced in a pavilion erected in the enclosure north of the Cemetery, in front of which seats had been arranged for the convenience of ladies. The platform was filled by the participants in the exercises and invited guests, and the Chairman of the Monument Committee, Gen'l B. F. Pratt, called upon Rev. Mr. Morrison to offer

prayer, after which "Madison's Dead March" was played by Stetson's Weymouth Band, minute guns being fired during the performance. The following original hymn, composed by F. M. Adlington, Esq., was then sung by the North Weymouth Glee Club :—

Speak, sculptured marble, speak and tell,
Let future ages know,
In Freedom's cause what heroes fell,
Contending with her foe.

While here each noble martyr's deed
This Monument proclaims,
Our future patriots yet may read
Their kindred's honored names.

And here the soldier's son will stand,
And see, with patriot pride,
His father's name among the band
Who for their country died.

And here the widow'd wife will bend,
And while her tears must flow,
Will learn her country is her friend,
Her orphan's father now.

The mother here her tears will check,
To glory in her son,
Who in the field, or on the deck,
The hero's laurels won.

And here the aged sire his head
Will bend, with weeping eyes,
And say, why mourn we these as dead ?
The patriot never dies.

Oh ! look aloft—in realms above,
In regions ever fair,
There dwell the objects of our love,
Our martyr'd sons are there.

Our martyr'd sons are living there,
Our martyr'd sons are there ;
There dwell the objects of our love,
Our martyr'd sons are there.

In behalf of the Monument Committee, the Chairman then presented a summary of their labors, in form of a report, which was somewhat long, closing as follows :—The cost of the monument, including foundation and steps, was \$3,026.36 ; grading and sodding, \$496.89—making a total of \$3,523.25. At the annual town meeting in March, 1868, the town voted to appropriate the sum of \$3,200 (out of the amount raised last year for soldiers monuments,) for the purpose of defraying the expense of the soldiers monument then being erected in the North Weymouth Cemetery. Within a few days, suggestions have been made that the monument might be further beautified and the names on the tablets made more legible by gilding them. This can be done at an expense of about fifty dollars. Your committee recommend this, and if done, it will make the whole cost, over and above the appropriation, \$373.25.

The monument is twenty-five feet high, of the best Quincy granite, and the tablets of Italian marble, (which is said to be as enduring as granite,) record the names of your ninety-nine fellow townsmen, with the Company and Regiment, date and cause of death, and age at the time they laid down their lives for their country. The mottoes and inscriptions on the monument, were selected by your committee as being more appropriate than any other, for those to whom and by whom this monument was erected. How we have succeeded in our duty is for

you, fellow citizens, friends and comrades of the deceased, to decide. If your expectations and wishes are realized, we feel amply rewarded for our labors."

After reading the report, Gen'l Pratt then made the following address:—

Fellow Citizens :

Your committee were unanimous in the selection of this day, to consecrate this monument to the patriotic citizens of Weymouth who died that our country might live,—not alone from the fact of this being the anniversary of that day on which, ninety-two years ago, that Declaration went forth to the world, that henceforth and forever these United States were to be a free and independent nation,—but being made still more illustrious and memorable as an anniversary day, from the fact that when a mighty rebellion which had risen in arms to sunder this Republic, was five years ago today, obliged to surrender its stronghold at Vicksburg to our victorious army under General U. S. Grant, and also on that same day, when the wave of rebellion which had threatened to roll over the North, was stayed at Gettysburg, and driven back to Richmond, by the valor of our arms, from which place it at last and finally went out, and at Appomattox Court House surrendered unconditionally to the nation's authority. In honor of those of our town who fell during the terrible war of the rebellion, we have assembled this day, as one most fitting and proper, to dedicate this monument to the memory of those heroes and martyrs who are truly worthy the name. And as with gratitude we dedicate this shaft to their memory, we do not propose to add to their glory;—we cannot add to it if we would. To those who died for their country, we can give no additional glory. Their names and their ashes are alike sacred. Shafts of granite may pierce the sky, but they are not alone honors for the dead;—they are also lessons and stimulants for the living. They are intended to urge upon all, the necessity of being ready, when called upon, to cheerfully offer their lives for the safety of the nation. These are honors conferred upon patriots for all future time. Custom has established this method of honoring the dead, and by so doing makes it the symbol of living patriotism. The services and memories of this hour should inspire us to dedicate ourselves with renewed fidelity to the cause for which they died, and thus shall we most honor, and render undying, the name and fame of American Patriot Soldiers and Sailors.

Mr. Chairman of the Selectmen :—

Having discharged the duty assigned us by our fellow citizens, it now becomes my duty, in behalf of the Committee, to deliver to you, as the representative of the authorities of the town of Weymouth, this granite monument, which we have erected and paid for, in accordance with contract and agreement;—and now, Sir, having finished the work given us to do, we surrender it to your care and protection. Beautiful in design, and enduring in structure, it will ever express the gratitude of our town, to the patriotism and heroic deeds of those who fell in defence of their country and of liberty. With you and your successors in office, rests the responsibility of preserving this monument, which is now committed to your keeping. The honor of the town is concerned that it shall be protected and cared for, so as to assure the friends and surviving comrades of the deceased, who shall in future years visit these grounds, that the feeling of gratitude which prompted its erection remains an abiding sentiment with the people of Weymouth. As the charge of the erection of this monument has ever been to us a most sacred duty, so to you and your successors in office, may the keeping of it ever be a most sacred trust.

James Humphrey, Esq., Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, received the charge with the following address:—

The favor of my fellow citizens has assigned to me a grateful duty; but the consciousness of my inability adequately to discharge it chastens every emotion of gladness.

The theme,—the occasion,—the audience,—these scarred veterans who surround us with their bodily presence,—these disembodied spirits of the martyred patriots who are marshalled today above us,—all command my profoundest homage, and I advance cheerfully as I *will*, but feebly as I *must*, to meet the demands of the hour.

By the direction of the official representatives of the town of Weymouth, I accept, Mr. Chairman, in behalf of this town, the Monument erected under the superintendence of the Committee of its citizens over which you preside; and the site on which it stands, granted for that purpose by the North Weymouth Cemetery Association. I am also instructed to tender to you, Sir, and to the members of the Committee associated with you in the erection of this appropriate Monument the thanks of this town for the faithful and successful manner in which you have performed the service for which you were designated by the citizens of this vicinity;—a service rendered more arduous by the fact that the division among the several villages embraced within her ample area, of the generous amount appropriated by the town for memorials to her honored dead, had left to this most ancient but least populous section, a sum so small, as only by prudent and wise expenditure could be made to provide for the erection of a memorial honorable to the community among whom it should stand. We would also extend our thanks in behalf of the town, to the Corporation who have gratuitously furnished this beautiful site upon which this memorial pile shall ever more rest. And we are not unmindful of the obligations imposed,—of the pledges implied,—in this acceptance in behalf of the town of the custody and care of this conspicuous memorial to the patriotic sacrifice of their lives by ninety-nine of her citizens.

The most obvious of these duties is that relating to the preservation and protection from injurious assaults of these visible mementoes of the virtues which they were designed to commemorate. Granite and marble and the solid earth are, indeed, among the most durable of material objects, but the gnawing tooth of time and the rude attack of the unthinking, if unchecked, will crumble and deface even these.

Scarcely less obvious is the duty implied in this acceptance of a tender and watchful care over those who were dependent for nurture and support, upon the brave men, who, going forth to battle, as our representatives, honorably fell at the post of duty. Also, if it is not properly within the scope of municipal obligations, it is assuredly one of our most sacred trusts, in our individual capacities, that we defend with a jealous regard the fair fame of these citizen soldiers who *died* that their country might *live*. It was no prompting of a spirit of reckless adventure, no lust for plunder, or for power, no passion for revenge,—no satiety even of the pleasures of life, which called forth to the field of deadly conflict, these fathers, brothers, sons. The cause in which they suffered was not unworthy of the sacrifice.

Sympathizing as we should, most sincerely, with those bereaved by these sacrifices, of beloved friends, we will never permit, by any act of ours, that the belief on their part that the sacrifice was needless, shall add poignancy to their grief; and today, kneeling by the graves of these heroic dead, we renew our pledge that to the best of our ability and understanding we will see to it that their blood shall not have been spilled in vain.

Weymouth is proud of the character and the fame of her citizen soldiers—the living and the dead. She rejoices to greet, on this anniversary

occasion, you, who by the favor of a benignant Providence have been spared to enjoy the blessings which your valor has aided to win, and to renew to you her thanks for the distinguished service rendered by you in her behalf.

And you, immortal band! she greets again, not in sadness, but in exultation, as she contemplates the heroic courage, the self-denying patriotism, the noble devotion to duty which bore you triumphantly through the dread conflict with the last earthly foe, and emblazoned your names in deathless characters on the grand roll of martyrs to truth and the right.

This portion of the exercises was concluded with the "Andante and Waltz of Monk," performed by the Band, and the Dedicatory Prayer, by Rev. Joshua Emery.

The heat was so overpowering that a proposition by the Chairman to adjourn to the South Shore Grove met with unanimous acceptance, and accordingly the multitude soon reassembled at the tables arranged under the trees, where a plentiful supply of refreshment was dispensed to all present. The ladies having this matter in charge had fulfilled their duties in a most satisfactory manner.

After the collation, the Orator of the Day, Dr. Geo. B. Loring, was introduced, and received with applause. His oration was then delivered in a most thrilling and eloquent manner, enchaining the close attention of the audience, for over an hour.

The following original Hymn, composed by Samuel Webb, Esq., was then sung to the tune of "America."

All hail, heroic band!
This birthday of our land
Shouts unto thee!
To famine, blood, the grave,
These dead sons rush'd, to save
The boon, their fathers gave,
Of Liberty.

They made that boon more bright,
They bathed it in the light
Of Heaven's own sun!
'Till not a blot remain'd,
'Till wrong nor slavery stain'd,
Their blood like water rain'd,
And victory won.

They fought, oh, long and well!
How well let ages tell,
For they shall reap—
Reap of the free seed sown,
Into new beauty grown—
Holding their right alone
Thro' those who sleep.

They're dead, but still they live—
Successive ages give
To them new life:
God's martyrs they, in sooth,
Stand, panoplied in youth,
Guiding the hosts of truth,
Unseen in strife.

This monument we rear,
All coming time to cheer,—
A voice in stone,
Saying, "In life's brief fight
Keep freedom's armor bright,
Strike, as we struck, for right—
For right alone."

Now to, "Of Kings the King,"
Let this great people sing
Glory to God!
He made our heroes strong,
Mighty to crush the wrong—
Gave them the victor's song—
Glory to God!

Hon. E. S. Beals, President of the Day, then addressed the people, giving an account of his experiences and observations at the South, during the past year. Another Hymn, composed by Samuel Webb, Esq., was then sung to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne."

We welcome, on this glorious day,
These brave sons of our sires ;
Their fathers kindled freedom's ray,
They've fanned its fading fires :
It burns above our nation now,
With light almost divine,
Shaming the light of long ago,
In days of "Auld Lang Syne."

From North to South, from East to West,
This land is freedom's own ;
And on its broad and generous breast,
Man bows to God alone.
Around a crush'd and fetter'd slave,
No galling links entwine,
They're buried in rebellion's grave,
And days of "Auld Lang Syne."

"We'll take the cup of kindness" here,
And pledge the whole broad land,—
"Our country, as our firesides, dear—
To loyal hearts our hand."
Should traitors spurn our friendship true,
And loyalty decline,
We'll call upon our boys in blue
To give them,—
"Auld Lang Syne."

If, in the march of coming time,
This goodly land should need
The marshaling of hosts sublime,
In numbers and in deed,—
From vale and hill the boys in blue
Shall pour, in serried line,
Made valiant by deeds done by you,
In days of "Auld Lang Syne."

Speeches were then made by Rev. Mr. Waldron, Mr. W. R. Emerson, Prof. C. Q. Tirrell, Rev. G. Cole, Rev. Mr. Morrison, Samuel Webb, Esq., and the following letters were read :—

SENATE CHAMBER, 2d July, 1868.

My Dear Sir :—I wish that I could take part in the interesting ceremonies to which you invite me ; but my duties will keep me here. On the anniversary of the birth of our nation, you will commemorate the death of patriots, who gave their lives that the nation might live. Grateful to our fathers, who at the beginning did so much, we owe an equal debt to those who saved the original work. The Monument which you rear will be national in its character ;—dedicated on the anniversary of Independence, it will have for its special object to guard forever the memory of those through whom the first fruits of Independence have been secured. Our fathers established the national independence, our recent heroes have made it perpetual through those vital principles which can never die. Honor to our fathers ;—honor also to their sons, worthy of the Fathers ! Accept my best wishes, and believe me, my dear Sir, very faithfully yours,

CHARLES SUMNER.

COL. B. F. PRATT, Chairman, North Weymouth.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 24th, 1868.

GEN'L B. F. PRATT.—*Dear Sir* :—Your kind invitation to be present at the Dedication of the Soldiers Monument on the 4th of July, is at hand, for which accept my thanks. It would give me pleasure to join you in honoring the memory of the brave men who have laid down their lives that the country might live ; but my duties at Washington prevent my being with you.

Yours truly,

OAKES AMES.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 22nd, 1868.

My Dear Sir:—There can be no more appropriate method of observance of the day on which the declaration of our liberties was made, than by commemorating the services of those who fought to preserve them.

Let the monuments to our soldiers be placed on every village green, in every public square; so that our children, drawing inspiration from example, may emulate the gallant bravery, patriotism and loyalty of those to whom the nation will yield a never-ending tribute.

Public duties of the most urgent nature, prevent my accepting the honor of aiding your citizens in their grateful work, but in heart and spirit believe me cordially with you.

I am very truly yours,

BENJ. F. BUTLER.

GENERAL BENJ. F. PRATT, North Weymouth, Mass.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D. C., June 22d, 1868.

General:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of June 20, inviting me to be present at the dedication of the Soldiers Monument at North Weymouth, on the Fourth of July. It would give me very great pleasure to accept of the invitation, but my official duties here will make it impossible to visit Massachusetts at that time. I had the pleasure of participating in ceremonies of this character at Waltham a short time since, and I should find great pleasure in testifying to the high character of the soldiers of Weymouth and its vicinity, with whom I had the honor to serve, and to whose fidelity and patriotism I can testify with all my heart.

I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,

N. P. BANKS.

GEN. BENJ. F. PRATT, Chairman, etc. etc., North Weymouth, Mass.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, }
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, BOSTON, June 30th, 1868. }

My Dear Sir:—I pray you and the members of the Committee to accept my sincere thanks for your kind favors of the twenty second instant, inviting me to be present at Weymouth on the fourth of July to aid in consecrating the Soldiers Monument. I greatly regret that it will be out of my power to accept this invitation to a service which commands my deepest sensibilities.

Though I must be absent in person, my heart shall be with you in your affectionate, patriotic, and tender work. No monument can by its beauty and grandeur rise to the sublimity of *their* actions who gave up home and life itself for the enduring glory of the country. Our debt to them can never be paid; it can only be kept visibly and constantly before us and our children by commemorating their heroic sacrifices. To this duty—the duty alike of public patriotism and private affection—let us pledge our hearts with all the generosity of which we may be capable.

I remain, with great respect, very truly, your obedient serv't,

ALEX. H. BULLOCK, Governor.

GEN. BENJ. F. PRATT, North Weymouth.

EAST WALPOLE, June 30th, 1868.

My dear Sir:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, inviting me, in behalf of the Committee of Arrangements, to attend the dedication of the Soldiers Monument on the Fourth of July next. I regret that a previous engagement will prevent my joining you in that service of patriotism and gratitude.

Under ordinary circumstances and in former times, it would have been a grateful duty to participate in a commemoration of those great events in the world's history—the Declaration and achievement of American Independence. Today and with the accompaniments of your celebration the duty has a higher interest and a deeper significance. The war in which the heroes whose virtues you commemorate bore their noble part, settled this forever—that the great doctrine of the Declaration, that all men are created equal and endowed with the inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, is not a “glittering generality,” but the corner stone of the Constitution of the United States, and that that Constitution, framed by the signers of the Declaration, was not “a covenant with death and a league with hell,” but a charter of Liberty to the oppressed of all the world. The false interpretations which the Slave power had put upon the Constitution have been blotted out in blood; and today we can, without a blush of conscious hypocrisy, rejoice that our starry flag waves over “the land of the free” as well as the home of the brave.”

If I were with you I should ask permission to offer the following sentiment.—The true expounders of the constitution—the brave boys in blue who taught the rebels and the world the lesson never to be forgotten, that the Declaration of Independence announced immortal truths, and that the Constitution of the United States means Freedom and not slavery.

Very truly your ob't serv't. F. W. BIRD.

HON. B. F. PRATT, Chairman, &c.

Letters were also read from Hon. H. Wilson, Col. John Q. Adams, Ex-Gov. Geo. S. Boutwell, Hon. Thomas Russell, Hon. Solomon Lincoln, Genl's Wm. S. King, I. S. Burrell, H. S. Briggs, A. B. Underwood, Hon. Harvey Jewell, D. W. Gooch, Chas. Endicott, and others, expressing regret at their inability to be present, and thanking the committee for the courtesy extended to them, after which the exercises were concluded with music by the Band, and singing of “Old Hundred” by the North Weymouth Glee Club.

On Monday, Oct. 12th, 1868, at a legal town meeting, it was voted to appropriate the sum of \$323.25, out of the sum raised last year for soldiers' monuments, for the purpose of defraying the balance of the expense of grading and sodding around the monument. This sum, with the \$3,200.00 appropriated in March, makes the cost of the monument \$3,523.25.

The tablet on the East side contains the names of volunteers in different

MASS. INFANTRY REGIMENTS.

Killed in Battle.

D. McAuliffe, 9th Infantry, Co. I, September 30th, 1864—age 27 years.
 B. F. Foss, 11th Infantry, Co. F, July 21st, 1861—age 31 years.
 E. Crocker, 11th Infantry, Co. F, July 21st, 1861—age 34 years.
 R. L. Torrey, 11th Infantry, Co. B, August 29th, 1862—age 27 years.
 E. F. Trufant, 11th Infantry, Co. F, July 2d, 1863—age 25 years.
 W. I. Lothrop, 13th Infantry, Co. F, August 30th, 1862—age 25 years.
 W. H. Baker, 13th Infantry, Co. H, August 30th, 1862—age 25 years.
 J. T. Dame, 32d Infantry, Co. F, June 3d, 1864—age 33 years.
 W. A. Lewis, 38th Infantry, Co. D, June 14th, 1863—age 35 years.
 O. S. Blanchard, 58th Infantry, Co. G, May 6th, 1864—age 41 years.

Died of Wounds.

C. L. Richards, 18th Infantry, Co. H, May 20th, 1864—age 21 years.
 G. A. Carter, 24th Infantry, Co. G, September 29th, 1864—age 43 years.

Died of Disease.

Geo. Starbuck, 2d Infantry, Co. I, February 24th, 1863—age 24 years.
 Ed. W. Hall, 7th Infantry, Co. F, October 16th, 1862—age 24 years.
 W. S. Adington, 11th Infantry, Co. F, Dec. 7th, 1861—age 20 years.
 G. H. Coolidge, 11th Infantry, Co. K, January 10th, 1862—age 23 years.
 G. R. Healey, 13th Infantry, Co. C, December 5th, 1862—age 26 years.
 S. A. McAllister, 16th Infantry, Co. G, March 1st, 1863—age 33 years.
 D. H. Hersey, 18th Infantry, Co. K, November 12th, 1862—age 22 years.
 C. C. Perigo, 30th Infantry, Co. H, August 13th, 1862—age 34 years.
 D. D. Hersey, 32d Infantry, Co. F, October 15th, 1862—age 39 years.
 F. Tirrell, 32d Infantry, Co. F, August 28th, 1863—age 20 years.
 E. B. Cheesman, 32d Infantry, Co. H, Dec. 27, 1863—age 34 years.
 E. Prouty, 39th Infantry, Co. G, Dec. 2, 1864—age 27 years.
 O. B. Stackpole, 42d Infantry, Co. A, Aug. 23, 1863—age 30 years.
 L. M. Hamilton, 56th Infantry, Co. C, Feb. 26, 1865—age 29 years.

The tablet on the South side contains the names of volunteers in the

TWELFTH MASS. INFANTRY REGIMENT, CO. H.

Killed in Battle.

J. G. Slattery, Aug. 28, 1862—age 19 years.
 J. H. Blackman, Dec. 13, 1862—age 20 years.
 Henry Swearas, Dec. 13, 1862—age 22 years.
 G. W. Vining, July 1, 1863—age 22 years.
 Lt. F. Thomas, July 1, 1863—age 22 years.
 G. F. Lewis, July 3, 1863—age 25 years.
 J. L. Deshon, May 6, 1864—age 29 years.
 Josiah Thompson, Jr., May 8, 1864—age 22 years.
 Lt. D. B. Burrell, May 25, 1864—age 33 years.

Died in Rebel Prisons.

Lorenzo Torrey, April 5, 1864—age 29 years.
 C. E. Cushing, June 12, 1864—age 21 years.
 N. W. Thayer, Nov. 3, 1864—age 32 years.

Died of Disease.

G. O. Orcutt, Nov. 24, 1863—age 26 years.
 C. A. Pope, Nov. 30, 1863—age 23 years.
 S. L. French, January 24, 1864—age 32 years.
 D. F. Rogers, March 21, 1865—age 28 years.

Killed in Battle.

Co. B—H. G. Lathrop, Aug. 30, 1862—age 20 years.
 Co. C—F. E. Coolidge, Aug. 30, 1862—age 22 years.
 Co. B—T. B. Cushing, Sept. 17, 1862—age 24 years.
 Co. D—J. Lajole, Sept. 17, 1862—28 years.
 Co. A—Cornelius Healey, Dec. 13, 1862—age 30.

Died of Wounds.

Co. C—J. Q. Whitmarsh, Sept. 17, 1862—age 30 years.
 Co. E—Geo. Walker, Sept. 24, 1862—age 20 years.
 16th Infantry, Co. D—D. Shehan, July 4, 1863—age 20 years.

The tablet on the West side contains the names of volunteers in the

THIRTY-FIFTH MASS. INFANTRY REGIMENT, CO. H.

Killed in Battle.

D. W. Cushing, Sept. 17, 1862—age 31 years.
 Wm. Pike, Sept. 17, 1862—age 25 years.
 W. W. Smith, Sept. 17, 1862—age 24 years.

Daniel Lamson, Dec. 13, 1862—age 30 years.

L. T. Holmes, May 18, 1864—age 26 years.

J. Q. Hunt, July 30, 1864—age 28 years.

Leonard Pratt, July 30, 1864—age 23 years.

Died of Wounds.

C. H. Robbins, Sept. 27, 1862—age 23 years.

N. F. Winslow, January 25, 1863—age 22 years.

S. R. Willis, July 17, 1863—age 40 years.

H. S. Hollis, Aug. 19, 1863—age 41 years.

Died in Rebel Prison.

C. A. Crocker, Sept. 30, 1864—age 20 years.

Died of Disease.

Jas. Rowe, January 7, 1863—age 44 years.

C. B. Blanchard, January 20, 1863—age 24 years.

C. E. Gannett, July 5, 1863—age 23 years.

John Davis, Aug. 22, 1863—age 24 years.

Jas. Pratt, Aug. 24, 1863—age 40 years.

Henry Ritchie, Sept. 1, 1863—age 37 years.

N. Torrey, Sept. 19, 1863—age 57 years.

Aug. E. Orcutt, Dec. 12, 1863—age 17 years.

J. Smith, Jr., June 25, 1864—age 23 years.

F. T. Bicknell, April 6, 1865—age 24 years.

F. J. Gammons, April 7, 1865—age 20 years.

Co. D—Z. Damon, March 5, 1863—age 17 years.

U. S. Navy—Ira W. Bragg, Surgeon, Oct. 21, 1864—age 31 years.

The tablet on the North side contains the names of volunteers in

MASS. HEAVY ARTILLERY AND CAVALRY REGIMENTS.

Killed in Battle.

E. L. Joyce, 1st Heavy Artillery, Co. M, June 16, 1864—age 28 years.

W. L. Burrell, 1st Heavy Artillery, Co. M, June 22, 1864—age 29 years.

Thomas Cahill, 4th Cavalry, Co. K, Feb. 10, 1864—age 21 years.

E. S. Williams, 4th Cavalry, Co. B, Aug. 17, 1864—age 22 years.

Henry F. Rennard, 3d Cavalry, Sept. 19, 1864—age 21 years.

Died of Wounds.

L. F. Littlefield, 1st Heavy Artillery, Co. K, May 27, 1864—age 43 years.

G. W. Bicknell, 1st Heavy Artillery, Co. F, June 3, 1864—age 22 years.

G. F. Willett, 4th Cavalry, Co. B, Dec. 18, 1864—age 42 years.

J. Q. Pratt, 4th Cavalry, Co. B, April 14, 1865—age 18 years.

Died in Rebel Prisons.

N. S. Jackson, 1st Heavy Artillery, Co. K, July 16, 1864—age 31 years.

P. J. Fearing, 1st Heavy Artillery, Co. F, July 24, 1864—age 29 years.

P. Fraher, 2d Artillery, Co. D, Nov. 9, 1864—age 21 years.
 Henry Hewitt, 4th Cavalry, Co. B, Oct. 9, 1864—age 23 years.
 D. E. Louney, 63d New York Infantry, Co. E, Dec. 3, 1863—age 36 years.

Died of Disease.

J. G. Jones, 1st Heavy Artillery, Co. M, Aug. 28, 1863—age 17 years.
 L. V. Bourne, 2d Heavy Artillery, Co. H, Nov. 3, 1864—age 21 years.
 I. J. Totman, 2d Heavy Artillery, Co. C, May 14, 1865—age 19 years.
 L. F. Pratt, 4th Heavy Artillery, Co. G, March 5, 1865—age 29 years.
 J. G. Raymond, 4th Cavalry, Co. D, May 27, 1864—age 18 years.
 F. A. Puttilow, 4th Cavalry, Co. E, July 25, 1864—age 18 years.
 W. A. Holbrook, 4th Cavalry, Co. E, Aug. 25, 1864—age 21 years.
 P. Cotter, 4th Cavalry, Co. G, Nov. 23, 1864—age 19 years.
 J. H. Day, 6th Battery, Oct. 16, 1863—age 23 years.
 S. Thompson, 16th Battery, Feb. 15, 1865—age 31 years.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted by Post 40, Grand Army of the Republic :—

Whereas, The patriotic people of Weymouth, by appropriation, and of North Weymouth, by vote, have caused to be erected in North Weymouth Cemetery a suitable Monument to perpetuate the memory of the gallant dead, our companions in arms, who nobly sacrificed their lives to sustain the Union and the Constitution, that Justice and Liberty might be established, and life, peace, and the pursuit of happiness, forever be the common heritage; therefore

Resolved, That we tender our most grateful thanks to our fellow citizens, for the liberality, public spirit, and patriotism, they have manifested, in voting appropriation to erect a monument, that the deeds of the heroic men whose memory it consecrates, might be forever perpetuated.

Resolved, That we hereby express to the Monument Committee our appreciation of their zeal and energy in prosecuting the work, and of their signal success in the completed structure; and also our obligations for their courtesy in consulting the wishes of the soldiers, and the friends of our deceased comrades, in regard to the designs, and plans, for erecting the same, and the place of location.

Resolved, That a copy of these Resolutions be transmitted to the Monument Committee.

EDWARD H. DAVIS,

Post Commander, Post 40, G. A. R.,

North Weymouth, Dep't of Mass.

B. FRANK THOMAS, Acting Adjutant.

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